Employment on compassionate grounds in Railways

†3232. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in the Ministry for employment on compassionate grounds in various Railway Zones, as on 30th November, 2002;

(b) the details of action being taken by Government to dispose of such cases, expeditiously; and

(c) by when all the cases for employment on compassionate grounds would be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) As on 30th November, 2002, 6537 cases were pending for employment on compassionate grounds in various Railway Zones/Production Units.

(b) Instructions have been issued and reiterated from time to time to make all out efforts to provide compassionate appointments to the eligible candidates as early as possible within the guidelines laid down for the purpose.

(c) All efforts are being made to settle all the pending cases as quickly as possible.

Queues for Rail Tickets at NDLS

†3233. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the long queues at the New Delhi Railway Station for purchasing tickets and that sometimes even the trains are missed while buying tickets;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make any arrangement to remove difficulties of passengers in purchasing tickets; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) During normal time, passengers are able to get the tickets at New Delhi Railway Station quite easily. It is only during peak rush period when long queues can be seen and, at time, the passengers arriving at the station at the last moment can face difficulty in getting ticket. However, to remove the difficulties being faced by passengers in getting unreserved tickets, a pilot project for Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) has been implemented in Delhi area in which tickets can be issued for a period upto 30 days in advance from Delhi area station to any stations defined in the system. Return tickets from any station, defined in the system, can also be issued for any station in Delhi area. This will reduce the queue as passengers do not have to come to New Delhi station to purchase tickets and they can also purchase the tickets in advance.

Conversion of MG line between Kasganj and Kanpur

3234. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made, so far, in conversion of Kasganj-Kanpur MG rail line in the BG;

(b) what steps are being taken to expedite the conversion; and

(c) by when the line so converted would become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) This is a part of gauge conversion of Kanpur-Kasganj- Mathura and Kasganj-Bareilly project. The work on this project has been taken up in phases. Earthwork and bridge works are in various stages of progress on Kanpur-Kasganj and Mathura-Kasganj-Bareilly section. Arrangements are also being made to take up work on Bareilly-Lalkuan section. An expenditure of Rs. 84.74 crores. has been incurred on this project upto 31/3/02. An outlay of Rs. 29.89 crore has been provided for the work in the budget 2002-2003. No target date has been fixed for completion of the project and the same would depend upon availability of resources.